TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

AUTH CS, USAF

18 Apr 51

TOP SECRET

215203

D.I. HQ USAF

AFOIN-E/CE
Colonel Wackwitz/hpm/76472
w/18 April 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE
Attention: Chief, General Division

18 APR 1951

SUBJECT: (Confidential) Soviet and Satellite AOB and Significant Air Developments, 11 - 17 April 1951, Inclusive

1. No significant change has been reported in the Soviet and Satellite Air Order of Battle since the report of 11 April 1951.

2. Significant intelligence items for the period 11 April to 17 April 1951 are contained in Tab "A".

1 Incl
Tab "A" (in dup)

WM. H. WILCOX
Colonel, USAF
Asst. Office, Asst. for Production
Directorate of Intelligence

No M/R necessary - This is recurring report.

"This document contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18, U.S.C. Section 793 and 794. Its transmission or the revelation of its contents in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law."

Copy 3 of 8 copies
Page 1 of 1 pages.

Office Symbol	AFOIN-E/CE	AFOIN-E	AFOIN-A			
Signature of Responsible Officer						
Intelligence Office Coordination						

316
737

TOP SECRET

AFOIN Coordination Copy

TOP SECRET
AUTH CS, USAF
13 Apr 51

TOP SECRET

~~219203~~
~~219203~~

U.S. COMM. #
D.I. HQ USAF

TAB "A"

AIR INDICATIONS

Far East

Korea-Manchuria

The 12 April encounter by UNAF aircraft with more than 100 MIG-15 aircraft over northwest Korea represented the most significant enemy air effort of the Korean war. This was the largest number of MIG's encountered in a single engagement. Although the MIG's destroyed 5 B-29's and damaged 6, the bombers' attack was made at relatively low altitude 5 miles from the enemy jet base at Antung during daylight hours. Considering as well that the bombers when over the Yalu River bridges at Sinuiju could not be given effective fighter protection because of boundary restrictions, and that the MIG losses were 10 destroyed, 7 probably destroyed, and 12 damaged, the engagement does not necessarily represent a more effective performance for the MIG's. However, the number of MIG aircraft in this engagement, plus other available information of jet activity within Manchuria, does indicate that the enemy probably has in excess of 250 jet aircraft in the Far East, and that the number is increasing. The size of the defensive air strike of 12 April appears to indicate that major effort will be expended to defend against bombing attacks, and that probably an effective visual or radar early warning system is in operation. Offensive capabilities of the enemy will increase in direct proportion to the lessening in distance between the ground battle line and the Yalu River, and with the number of jet fighters available to challenge UN air superiority.

Although repair and construction of North Korean airfields continues, few, if any, enemy aircraft are on these fields. An attack by 4 conventional enemy fighters on 16 April against a ROK frigate off northwest Korea may represent token use of these facilities.

Unconfirmed reports tell of Soviet intentions to supply up to 3,000 aircraft to the Chinese Communists as well as the possible creation of a Soviet "volunteer" air force. Another report, also unconfirmed, states that a Soviet unit of 14 "heavy" bombers arrived at Changchun on 24 March and is now based there.

Despite the increased capability of the CCAF to intervene in the Korean war, the estimated 850 CCAF aircraft available, and continued

"This document contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18, U.S.C. Section 793 and 794. Its transmission or the revelation of its contents in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law."

Copy 3 of 3 copies
Page 1 of 2 pages.

TOP SECRET

training flights with combat aircraft in Manchuria, new indications of an intention to do so in the immediate future are limited to PW reports that preparations are being made for air support of ground units.

China

Various reports indicate that the Chinese Communist Air Force continues its training program, particularly in the Canton area. In general, the activity in China proper exclusive of training appears to consist chiefly of airfield construction and defensive measures. Air reconnaissance of airfields in the coastal area opposite Taiwan shows that few aircraft are disposed in this area and that several key fields are not operational.

Europe

Satellites

Jet aircraft have now been seen in all the Satellite countries with the exception of Albania. The observation of 3 MIG-15's with Czech markings shooting landings at Milovice Airfield near Prague coincides with the completion of this airfield and may indicate that delivery of jets to other Czech airfields will follow their completion. If the observed aircraft are part of a re-equipment program, and not merely for Czech participation in the May Day Parade, the Czechs will follow the Poles as the second Satellite nation to acquire Soviet jet aircraft.

The reported sighting by a reliable source of 20 MIG-15's at Budapest/Tokol Airfield is the largest sighting of jets reported in Hungary. Although the markings on the MIG's were not specifically mentioned, other aircraft on the field bore Soviet markings. The report also mentions uncrating operations which may indicate additional aircraft will soon appear. Work on Tokol Airfield, like the airfield at Milovice mentioned above, has only recently been completed. Although the Hungarian Air Force is reportedly active at this time in ground support maneuvers north of Budapest, it appears more likely that the jet fighters are part of the Soviet Air Force.

At the Rumanian airfield at Otopeni, near Bucharest, a reliable observer saw 7 Soviet MIG-15 jets. This tends to confirm previous reports of a jet unit in the area.

In addition to these indications of an increase in Communist jet fighters in Eastern Europe, seven twin-engine jet aircraft were observed at Erzeg Airfield, Poland, on 12 April and are believed to be the Type 27 Soviet light bomber. This suggests that aircraft of this type now exist in sufficient numbers to permit assignment of some on a priority basis to operational units. The Type 27 has been expected to put in an appearance with the 24th Air Army in Germany and construction activity on several fields in this area involving the lengthening of the runways indicates readiness to receive this aircraft.

In general, the movement of jet aircraft, either Soviet or Satellite flown, onto East European airfields appears to follow the airfield improvement program which was first completed in Germany and is now reaching completion at different points in Eastern Europe.